

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 007538

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
November 17 trials mark day of justice in Greece - Hurriyet  
November 17 trials: Justice arrives 12 years late - Aksam  
Denktas: TRNC will not become another Georgia - Hurriyet  
Indecent proposal: Iran offers KADEK in exchange for natural  
gas - Milliyet  
FM Gul: Uzans will be extradited from US - Sabah  
Observers find Russian elections undemocratic - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS  
Grossman to discuss Incirlik AB with Ankara - Radikal  
Grossman came for Incirlik - Yeni Safak  
EU gives moderate message on Cyprus - Radikal  
Iran bargaining on terror with Turkey - Cumhuriyet  
Israel helps US troops in Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
FM Gul: Turkey will succeed in its EU drive - Zaman  
Talabani wants to turn a new page with Turkey - Yeni Safak  
Power struggle between US, Russia in Georgia - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

U/S Grossman in Ankara: Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Marc Grossman, arrived in Ankara Monday to discuss with the Turks the new mission of Incirlik Air Base. Grossman will reportedly stress that the war in Iraq has shown the importance of flexibility and maneuverability in facing new threats. He will also discuss ways for restructuring the US mission at Incirlik. Papers expect Ankara to tell Grossman that Turkey prefers a functional air base like Incirlik to continue working in line with modern conditions and the current legal system in Turkey.

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas blamed the opposition for attempting to remove him from the political arena. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) will not become "another Georgia," Denktas said. He noted that the opposition in the TRNC did not have the potential to activate the masses toward a political goal. Denktas also blamed the EU and western world for providing financial support to the opposition in the TRNC. The Turkish Cypriot opposition regards the visit by Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener to the island on the eve of the elections as a political intervention by Ankara. Sener said his visit was scheduled beforehand within the framework of several existing protocols on cooperation. "Cumhuriyet" expects Denktas to table a new plan for the resettlement of Greek Cypriots in the Turkish sector. Greek Cypriots willing to move to the north will be allowed to acquire property in the TRNC up to a certain quota, according to the Denktas plan. On the other hand, dailies cite Greek Cypriot papers claiming that the US will not recognize the election results if Denktas emerges as the winner.

Turkey-Iran: Iran has asked Turkey to send delegations to Iran to discuss cooperation in struggle against terrorism and the natural gas issue, according to "Hurriyet." Ankara was disturbed by the 'shocking' Iranian offer to prevent PKK/KADEK activities in Iran in exchange for Turkey's agreement to purchase all of its natural gas from Iran. Turkish officials said Ankara was not against buying or

distributing Iranian natural gas to Europe via Turkey, but decisions on energy issues require time. Ankara reportedly informed Tehran that accepting KADEK as a terror organization should be a unilateral decision, and that there is no need to send a delegation to discuss the issue. Uzans in the US: Ankara has stepped up efforts to gain the extradition of Kemal and Yavuz Uzan from the US. Uzan family leader Kemal Uzan and his brother Yavuz are reportedly hiding in the US. "We will demand the extradition of the criminals from the US," Foreign Minister Gul said. Papers report that Interpol gave Ankara detailed information on the whereabouts of the Uzans two weeks ago. Washington has told the US Embassy in Ankara that the US is ready for cooperation with Turkey on the issue."

EU Brussels summit: The EU foreign ministers' summit to be held in Brussels December 12-13 is expected to encourage Turkey's EU efforts. The summit's final communique is expected to give the message that settlement of the Cyprus problem will greatly facilitate Turkey's membership process. The final declaration will urge a solution within the framework of the Annan Plan.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The New Iraq"  
Yilmaz Oztuna observed in the conservative, mass appeal *Turkiye* (12/9): "Iraq's demography presents a complex picture, and the lack of a reliable census leaves us to make only estimates about its ethnic and religious composition. These estimates are based on general trends as well as local interests. For instance, the Shiites of Iraq are seeking an Iranian-style radical Islamist regime. Kurds in the north, however, are after an autonomous structure. The US, on the other hand, is relying heavily on the Kurds. During the Iraq crisis, Kurdish peshmerges turned into fighters equipped with US heavy weapons. From Israel's point of view, a divided Iraq with a separate Kurdish state would serve Israeli interests. . It remains to be seen how successful the US will be in building a new Iraq, particularly with such a complex demography and conflicting interests. It seems that we are headed for a kind of chaos. Even if there are elections in Iraq, there will never be a democracy."

"Shiites Have Gained Full Control"  
Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-politic *Dunya* (12/9): "The people of Iraq used to suffer because of Saddam. Now the same painful process is continuing because of Bush. The US intervention saved the Iraqis from Saddam's cruelty, yet brought chaos and anarchy in its place. . We all used to know the US as a state which stood for long-term planning and clear goals and objectives. However, the policies pursued by Bush, especially on the Iraq issue, have proved otherwise. . Given the circumstances, the effort to bring democracy to Iraq is far from credible. Everybody knows that a new regime that a majority of Iraqis will support can only be led by the Shiites. They not only make up 60 percent of the population, but are also working for an immediate election process in Iraq. . It is clearly a nightmare for the Bush administration to see a Shiite government, which inevitably will be radical Islamist. . The situation leads us to an odd conclusion. The US will either accept a Shiite-led political structure in Iraq, or we will see further chaos and anarchy, which might even lead to a civil war."

EDELMAN